

THE EVENING STAR.

WASHINGTON.
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CROSBY S. NOYES, Editor.

THE EVENING STAR has a regular and permanent Family Circulation much more than the combined circulation of the other Washington dailies. As a News and Advertising Medium it has no competitor.

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A Profitable District Day.

District day in the House was more of a success yesterday than it has been at any previous time at this session, both as regards the amount of business transacted and in view of the probable value of the legislation. The calendar was cleared of bills awaiting action, and Chairman Eads was enabled to make a material inroad upon the items of local interest awaiting enactment into law. Fifteen measures were presented and all were approved, in no case requiring a roll call. Three of the bills were strictly of a private nature. Two others were of insignificant bearing upon public matters. One relates to the law governing business transactions, affecting the status of negotiable instruments. Its intention is to place the District upon the same footing in this regard as some of the states, in accordance with a tendency observable of late to harmonize the laws affecting such matters wherever possible. Two of the bills passed concern the criminal laws in force in the District. One of them is of a most worthy nature, seeking to decrease the opportunities of people to secure possession of deadly weapons, and making it a punishable offense for any person to put such a weapon into the possession of a minor. This law, if rigidly enforced, should be productive of excellent results. The other affects the status of persons arrested under the laws of the United States relating to the District and is urged by the local authorities.

The bulk of the session was devoted to the passage of bills relating to the street railway interests. Two, that legalizing the extension of the Glen Echo road into the District and that authorizing the Capital Railway to use the trolley on the Navy Yard bridge, are of minor consequence. The bills that seek to adjust the status of the Belt and Eckington roads and to place them on a rapid transit basis have gone through a tedious process of perfection and may now be considered as having every material interest affected. The public's chief concern in these measures is the guarantee they convey that within a few months, under their operation, these two important street railroad systems will be adequately equipped for service in harmony with the rest of the city's transportation facilities. The situation with regard to these measures is well known, and it is to be hoped that the Senate will not require much time for their contemplation, since it is highly desirable that the work of the equipment of these properties on a rapid transit basis be authorized in season for its completion before another winter has set in.

The bill relating to the taxation of street railways in the District seems to seek to throw the burdens upon these corporations on a more even basis than heretofore. It is desirable that this should be done, but only experiment can determine certainly whether the best results are obtained by the method outlined in the bill just passed. The three dividend paying properties are properly segregated from the other franchises that produce no net revenues and the personal property tax seems to be merged into another form of taxation, an assessment on the gross receipts of the corporation, 1-5 of 1 per cent as a franchise tax and 4 and 2 per cent as a general tax.

The House negatived an amendment seeking to grant to all railroad companies the privilege of acquiring the property, rights and privileges of all intersecting and connecting lines. It is proper that this subject be left for future consideration as a separate proposition, with any other legislation. There is no present need or demand for general consolidation.

The Native Petition.

The disclosures concerning the character of the so-called native petition against Hawaiian annexation serve to eliminate that document entirely from all consideration. The statement relative to this matter printed in yesterday's Star suffices to show that the wholesale device was practiced by those instrumental in the production of the remarkable list of names, supposed to represent native Hawaiians pleading for the integrity of their nation. There has been more misrepresentation to the detriment of the cause of annexation than appears in this single instance, but the petition itself may be taken as a sample of the whole. The list seems to have been grossly padded without regard for anything save the main purpose of accumulating a lot of signatures. Not only is there evidence that fictitious names were deliberately written into the lists, but the ages of those whose names may be real have been altered until no reliance whatever can be placed upon their right to petition in the premises. Minors, even babes, have been made to appear as asking the Senate of the United States to stay its hand in the consummation of this act of union, for which the most weighty reasons affecting the ultimate destinies of many millions of people have been advanced. With cheerful disregard of the chances of detection the manipulators of the petition have shuffled names, ages and other items about until the whole mass becomes as waste paper, valueless save as throwing light upon the methods of the opposition. Ex-Minister Thurston gives some amusing instances of the native Hawaiian's failure to recognize the true nature of a petition. These frauds may have been committed to a certain extent in an innocent spirit, so far as a realization of the enormity of the fraud itself was concerned, but that assumption, based solely upon a feeling of charity, can not destroy the fact that the petition from the moment of these disclosures ceased to possess the slightest value as an exhibit in the case of annexation.

Senator Hill claims that no honest public man has reason to fear the criticisms or witikisms of the press. An inference to be gathered from this remark gives the people who have objected to these things a chance to switch off and prefer a few libel charges against the senator himself.

Why Slot Machines Do Not Pay.

Notwithstanding the elaborate precautions of the telephone company to force the people to use the pay stations, the slot machines recently provided "for their convenience" at various points, it now appears that the enterprise has been far from a financial success. According to testimony given yesterday before the House investigating committee the company has found the returns to be very unsatisfactory. The natural question is as to why this should be. Inasmuch as the result of the telephone uses that culminated in the reduction of the rates was based largely upon the annoyances connected with this slot-machine system it may be imagined that perhaps the people have deliberately refused by refraining from using the measured service they were asking the good cause

of the citizens against the corporation's greed. There are several modern methods of avoiding the use of the telephone, however, and even the most necessary instrument that instrument may be. The bicycle, the rapid transit car and the special delivery of letters all tend to put people into closer communication with each other than ever before and in such a city as Washington, with its smooth streets and its rapidly improving street railway system, it is the height of folly for any holder of a telephone monopoly to seek to force the people to pay an exorbitant rate for telephone conversations. For the same reason that the wire to a person not a subscriber—and in some cases even to a subscriber—a letter can be sent to a correspondent within a short time, with practical assurance of entire secrecy. With less than the same amount, 8-13 cents, a round trip can be procured on any one of the city roads, thus in most cases enabling one to make one trip to reach and hold unlimited conversation with another, with every assurance of immunity from espionage. Save in the most urgent cases the various facilities readily at the disposal of the average citizen are practically as useful as the telephone, and with that ever present advantage that they insure freedom from eavesdropping. There has been present for some weeks or months a positive incentive, too, for the adoption of make-shift measures of communication. The issue between the people and the company has been fairly well defined and it has been made sufficiently plain to the former that the best way to fight the latter on its own ground was to refuse to yield to the demand that the telephone privileges be paid for at a rateavoring of extortion. No more effective showing of the temper of the people could well be given than that contained in the confession of the president of the company that the slot machines have not paid. The sub-committee can now see clearly that a material reduction of the rates along with a maintenance of good service will invite the subscriptions of those persons who are now unsuccessfully urged to patronize the slot-machines. The company will find profits in the use of the "phones under contract by several thousand people who are obliged to abstain on principle from encouraging a grab-game that is now acknowledged to be a failure.

The Yarn From Paris.

The United States is being warned again from Paris to keep hands off Cuba. Austria and Germany are reported to be strongly in sympathy with Spain, and very likely to be heard from on Spain's side in case of war.

This note was sounded a year or more ago in the same quarter, at the time the deliveries in Congress gave promise of intervention on the part of this government. The bluff was worked industriously and for all that it was worth. But it did not influence matters here in the slightest. The same was easily fathomed. The amount of French capital invested in Spanish securities, and especially those relating to Cuba, was well known. The French investors are again alarmed, and are again working through their Paris news agencies on what they conceive to be the credulity of the American people.

The duty of the United States toward Cuba is at last entirely clear. It is the universal feeling that the hand in the land must be brought to an early close, and that outside influence alone can produce that result. This brings the United States directly into the case. Cuba lies within the sphere of American influence, with Spanish sovereignty powerless or surrendered. Europe is warned off under a fair reading of the Monroe Doctrine. Spain would not be permitted to cede Cuba to either Austria or Germany. The lowering of the Spanish flag there means either independence for the island or annexation to the United States.

This government, when it intervenes, will be moving in the interests of peace. It will have its own approval, and it would prefer to have the approval of all civilized nations. It is certain to have the approval of Great Britain. The English people, through the enterprise of the London newspapers, have been kept as well informed about the Cuban war as have the people of this country. Spanish misrule and Spanish barbarity in Cuba have been described to them fully and veraciously, as also the patience of the United States in the face of such extreme provocation. But, whatever sentiment in Europe may be, the United States cannot turn back, and will not if every Spanish blood held in France should find a pen to create Spanish alliances for war purposes.

An International Mis-Cue.

The London Mail is usually a well informed and sagacious journal. Its comments on matters American are not apt to be tinged with the insularity and ignorance that are so often characteristic of the average British newspaper. The Mail seems to have a fairly accurate perspective on the methods, manners and traditions of the people of these shores, and hence such a comment as the following is more to be deplored than though it came from a journal of less liberal inclinations toward the United States:

"As we anticipated, the war scare over the loss of the Maine has died a natural death. The fact is, the war scare has been many sea miles removed, and a mercurial lot, and delight in talk of war-like the aborigines who held America before them. But they are also business men, and very level headed, and so they know that war with Spain would mean an enormous loss of trade, and under no circumstances any side whatever. War between the United States and Spain is, of course, not impossible—but it is exceedingly unlikely."

This was printed about ten days ago, when the "war scare" was more acute than it had been for some time and less acute than it is today. The Mail first accuses us of being "too mercenary" and preserving certain aboriginal traits. Then it assures us as being actuated by wholly commercial considerations. The issues now before the American people are not such as will permit either indictment to stand for a moment. They are, first, whether Spain is to be held responsible for the destruction of the Maine, and if so, in what manner; second, whether the time has arrived when, in the name of humanity, this country ought not to step in between the starving Cubans and their pitiless masters and end the devastating war now in progress in the island. In neither case is there a suggestion of excuse for a commercial inspiration, either for or against the adoption of a decisive line of action by this government. Trade does not enter into the issue or the other, save, perhaps, to urge Cuban intervention and the score that American commerce has been sadly injured by the maintenance of the strife in the island. The Mail needs to watch and interpret American events more closely if it desires to maintain its reputation for fair treatment of affairs on this side of the Atlantic.

When a Spanish editor challenges an American citizen the latter should not hesitate. He should promptly name submarine mines as the weapons.

The promptness with which the appropriation bill was passed will scarcely find unreserved acceptance by the senate as a precedent.

War and the Congress Campaigns.

If war breaks out between the United States and Spain, it will prove to be a matter of more than a few months, what effect will be wrought on this year's campaign? As matters now stand the lines are drawn for control of the next House on the silver issue. Again the silver men are demanding free coinage at 16 to 1 as an independent

act of this government, and again the sound money men are insisting that such a policy would bankrupt the country and destroy the credit of the government. Nominations for Congress will be made accordingly, and present promises are for a very spirited contest. Each side has organized a strong campaign committee, and preparations for the coming struggle are well advanced.

But suppose that war is in progress at the time the campaign begins. Suppose that Spain is stubbornly resisting the United States. Suppose the President is carrying himself—as he is certain to do in such circumstances—as to command them, as he now does, the hearty approval of all the people. Suppose the spirit aroused is such as to demand a prosecution of the war beyond the mere question of putting an end to Spanish oppression and misrule in Cuba. How will it be possible in such a state of case for speakers on either side to secure attention for domestic issues of any kind? How possible to gather an audience anywhere whose sole interest for the time is not centered in the one overshadowing question of the national safety, and ultimate triumph over the foreign foe?

On that question there are no divisions now. Silverites and sound money men—the men who voted for Mr. Bryan, and the men who helped put Mr. McKinley in the White House—stand shoulder to shoulder in support of properly equipping the country if war should come. Then if war does come, and the resources of the country are to be drawn upon heavily to conduct it, will there be anything else of pressing importance before the people but holding up the hands of the administration? One party, it is true, could be depended upon to do that as loyally as the other, but the Republicans might have the call by reason of being already in power.

It is thought that the Emperor of Austria regards the possible intervention of the United States in Cuban affairs as a menace to all Europe. The emperor's experience with the reichsrath has made him overtimid.

Bread riots have occurred in a Spanish village. It will not be as safe for the Madrid politicians to make starvation a feature of their domestic as well as of their foreign policy.

The early arrival of spring weather is accompanied in its delights by a fear that it may give rise to the announcement later that the peach crop is a failure.

The next best thing to an honorable avoidance of any war at all is to make the preliminary preparations so thorough that it cannot possibly last long.

Perhaps the supposed belligerence in the country's base ball clubs would prove highly serviceable in the event of international conflict.

General Weyler has resolved himself into a perpetual indignation meeting.

SHOOTING STARS.

His Theory.

"I was just reading," said Miss Dolly Cumrox, "of a great musician who enjoyed music even after he became deaf!"

"Well," replied her father, "perhaps he was like a great many of us, and had gotten tired of everything except the ballet."

The Age of Enthusiasm.

"Speak gently," says the proverb old. Its potency has grown. If nowadays your own you'd hold You need a megaphone.

The Only Fear.

"Ha, ha!" exclaimed the European duelist. "Then you refuse to fight me! Ha, ha! Then you are afraid!"

"Well," replied the practical citizen. "I'm not afraid to die, but I dislike to be made ridiculous."

His Reason.

"What do you mean," inquired the Spanish official's friend, "by trying to make mere assertions take the place of fact?"

"I am, sir," was the reply, "a firm believer in the superiority of mind over matter."

A Possible Change.

"It's too bad," remarked the man who is fond of outdoor life, "that there are no flag-worms mentioned in Havana harbor."

"I don't see what difference it makes," replied the other. "If the Spanish officers could go fishing once in a while they'd be willing to vary the monotony of their tall stories of success."

Haste.

Risin' in do mawnin', Wint'ry air is brisk. Ef you draps you ovuh-coat You runs a heap 'o risk.

But it's fair an' sunny Jes' like spring so fine When you goes a-walkin' Befo' de clock strikes nine.

Den de sun gets hotter, Jes' like summer's ray. Nex' it's coolin', an' you thinks It's an October day.

Life is mighty rapid In de great city. We gits de whole 'o seasons Befo' it's dinner time.

A Russian View of Zola's Trial.

From St. Petersburg Novoye Vremya. It is henceforth an historical fact that generals in active service have come to the assistance of justice in order to terminate a French jury. Their object was to get the verdict against Dreyfus confirmed, and to make Eastbury appear innocent. We are far from thinking that international difficulties might have arisen if the "secret documents" of the military staff had been divulged. The French government has no cause to complain of its staff generals. They have played the part imposed on them. It would, however, have been more honorable for the government and for them if recourse had been had to more honest means of getting out of this impasse.

Humanity Demands It.

From the Kansas City Star. The law of humanity, which is higher than the law of nations, demands that the United States government shall bring about a speedy cessation of the starvation and butchery which the Spaniards have caused in the island of Cuba. The duty of the government at Washington is to relieve the distress now existing in Cuba and to see to it that there shall be no more of the same sort.

The Plain People.

All honor to the masses of the American republic. They are faithful and true to their government in times of threatened war. Let the government be the same to them in peace as well as in war. Let there be no policy in time of war that will not hold good as a principle in time of peace. The plain people, if we but learn the lesson now being taught, are the mainstay of the republic.

We Want No Alliance.

From the Jacksonville Citizen. We desire the sympathy and moral support of England and all other nations should we go to war with Spain. But we want no alliance with any power, and we fight our own battles, and do not propose to fight anybody else's.

Money Counsels Neutrality.

The Rothschilds announce that they will not allow any European power to go to war against the United States and thus damage their investments. This ought to set the Rothschilds' own mast of the European powers and exert a mighty influence over the rest.

Cream Blend Will Do All

That you would expect of an absolutely PURE V. HEAT FLOUR, that is ground of the finest spring and winter wheat, grown in this country. "Cream Blend" will DO MORE than any other brand you ever used, because

Cream Blend Flour is Best.

It not only makes the best bread—the lightest, most nutritious, most delicious bread—but it also yields 1 MORE bread to the barrel.

"Cream Blend" pleases skilled cooks and economical housewives. See that your grocer sends "Cream Blend."

B. B. Earnshaw & Bro.

Wholesale, 1105-1107-1109 11TH ST. S. E.

F. S. WILLIAMS & CO.

The quickest and easiest way of getting rid of a cough is to take

WILLIAMS' PRUSSIAN COUGH SYRUP. The first teaspoonful you take does good. And following the directions "to the letter" means a speedy disappearance of every trace of your cough. It's pleasant to take.

Only 15c. bottle. WILLIAMS'

Temple Drug Store, Corner 9th and F Sts.

Engagement & Wedding Rings.

We make a specialty of Engagement and Wedding Rings, which are of the finest quality and of the latest and most approved fashion.

Galt & Bro., JEWELLERS SILVERSMITHS STATIONERS, 1107 PENNA. AVENUE, mh15-1,th,28

If You're Going to Store Your Furs

Put them away where they'll be perfectly safe from loss or injury. HERE. We keep furs in clean, dry, moth-proof compartments. Have them cleaned in our special machines. We'll guarantee that we'll be perfectly satisfied.

SAKS FUR CO., Cor. 12th and G Streets, mh15-1,th,28

Give Us Entire Charge Of The Refreshments For Your Card Party.

All we need know is how many to provide for—and how simple or elaborate you wish the menu to be. We'll take the details of arranging, preparing and serving the refreshments may be left to our waiters. We'll be perfectly satisfied.

Shut Out the Oysters and other Lenten Delicacies served in our Ladies' Cafe.

Jarvis, 426 9th st., CONFECTIONER & CATERER, mh15-1,th,28

Gill's Special Wednesday.

CREAM MINTS. CHOCOLATE MINTS. CREAM WINTERGREEN. CREAM MINTS. CREAM MAPLES (new). CHOCOLATE V. NILLAS (new). ASSORTED WAFERS (new).

Only 10 cents a box. A rare treat. See windows.

Gill's, 921 F st. and 1223 Pa. ave. mh15-1,th,28

This "out-of-season" weather is beginning to tell on lots of folks. Appetites are fickle. Spirits droop. Entire systems seem out of order.

"Crown" Porter Corrects these troubles. It's a matchless spring tonic to give tone and vigor to both mind and body.

Only 75c. for 12 bottles sent in unlettered wrapper. Write or telephone.

Washington Brewery Co., 4th & F Sts. N.E. Phone 2154 mh15-1,th,28

Corns Won't Bother You

If you'll use "S. & S." CORN CURE on them. It's a sure cure for both hard and soft corns. Takes them out without the slightest pain. Only 15c.

Extra bottles of Hygiene, 45c.

Stevens' Pharmacy, COR. 9TH AND PA. AVE. mh15-14d

Makes Children Plump

It's bread made of whole wheat flour. Contains as all the nutriment of the wheat and in the form of a food that children need. Whole wheat nutrition and delicious bread to eat. Only 8c. loaf.

Krafft's Bakery, COR. 18TH ST. AND PA. AVE. mh15-1,th,28

Grateful Patients

G. P. A. the doctors call them, are found in every city, town and hamlet land in their praise of Dr. Humphreys' Medicine Company, New York, 11

"77" for Grip and Colds.

At Drugstore, price, 25c. 50c. or \$1.00. Humphreys' Medicine Company, New York, 11

Photo Frames, 50 cents.

In any color oak or gilt. Any color mat to match. Free delivery. Send for color card and assortment of Picture Frames, 75c. Send postcard with color card to J. V. VENABLE, 204 Mass. ave. n.e.

Millinery, Suits, Fabrics

"OPENING."

THE PALAIS ROYAL.

YESTERDAY'S thousands of visitors and the complimentary press notices are advertising the Millinery "Opening" more effectually than could any paid for announcements. We need to write that however great the throngs here we have every facility for attentively waiting on our patrons. The private parlors guarantee privacy, and the services of expert milliners will prove helpful. A word to the floor managers will assure you this accommodation.

We think this fact has already been demonstrated:—that The Palais Royal Millinery is the product of "born" milliners. And need we remind you of the difference between the sublime and the ridiculous?—between the sublime Hats that are the creations of genius, and those that are only mechanical imitations, generally ridiculous?

Paris Hats.

The name and address in each is eloquent—partly telling you why the prices range from \$20 to \$40 each. But you need not pay these fancy prices; \$8, \$9 and \$10 will suffice here for as good or better hats. We offer you the services of a "born" and educated Parisian milliner, with materials coming direct from the makers, enabling \$8, \$9 and \$10 for hats that are the acme of style, made of very best materials, practically \$20 to \$40 French Hats.

The Tailor-made Costumes.

SUITS, Separate Skirts and Waists, representing the correct spring fashions of London and Paris. The "Opening" of the completed stocks will prove the force of a claim we need to repeat:—we have neither the absurdities masquerading under the name of "novelty," nor the vulgar imitations called "cheap." The "Opening" will thus give you the assurance that "if it's at The Palais Royal it's right."

Special "P. R." Suits

At \$16.98. Made of imported Venetian Cloth, Black, grays, navy and Yale blues. Fly-front jacket, fan-back skirt; lined from neck band to skirt hem with black or colored taffeta silk. Mantailored, guaranteed the equal of \$40 to-order gowns.

Silk Lined Cloth Suits

At \$11.98. Fine All-wool Cheviot Serge Costumes, lined throughout with silk. Black lined with black silk; those in Yale blue being lined with red silk. The French style jacket and skirt are captivatingly attractive. The mantailor is evident in every detail.

The Separate Skirt and Waist is a factor in a woman's wardrobe that has immense possibilities. For instance: Two Waists and two Skirts practically make four different costumes. We have the Separate Waists from \$10 to \$25 each; the Skirts from \$2.70 to \$25 each. The largest, most varied collection ever gathered in Washington. Four "specials" mentioned this evening:

\$3.48 Cloth Skirts.

Made of fancy cloths, producing the fashionable Bayadere stripe effect. Black, blue and brown. Lined and bound.

\$6.98 Silk Skirts.

Black Silk and Satin Skirts, in artistic brocaded effects, correctly new cut, rustleline lining and velvet binding.

\$4.98 Silk Waists.

Black Silks, Glace Silks, Check Silks and Stripe Silks the materials. Blouse and tucked fronts. All latest styles.

The Grenadines.

\$4.14 for a Dress Pattern of the 75c Black Brocaded Silk Grenadines. Being 45 inches wide, six yards suffice for a dress.

The New Silks.

\$1.75 and \$2 yard for the usual \$2.50 Black Grenadines in new Bayadere, lace scroll, polka dots and various stripes, 45 inches wide.

\$1 yard for \$1.25 Check and Plaid Black Silk Grenadine. The quality is best, but the width is only 24 inches.

98c yard for \$1.25 Silk Grenadines in combination colors; green and black, violet and black, brown and black, old rose and black.

49c, 50c and 75c yard for Plaid and Glace Taffeta Silks for lining. The weight tells they are extra value at the prices.

75c yard for the 80c Black Taffeta Silk. This is very "special." Sold here regularly at 80c, but as good as many sold at \$1 yard.

(Continued above.)

75c a yard for \$1 quality Cover Cloth in the most attractive bargain spot.

Wool Suitings.

The various cloths used in tailor-made Suits are here—from 39c to \$1.25 a yard.

Palais Royal, A. Lisner, G & 11th.

Strength-giving Food

—is what every one requires—the "todder" as well as the old folks. It is acknowledged that bread is "the staff of life." It cannot occupy this important position unless it is made from pure wheat flour—

"CERES" Flour

—for instance. Some unscrupulous dealers are adulterating their brands with cornmeal and other cereals! Look out for such brands. Never allow any but "Ceres" Flour to enter your home—only then can you be sure of securing the purest and best flour. All grocers sell "Ceres" Flour. Accept no substitute. We are wholesalers.

Wm. M. Galt & Co., Wholesale Flour Merchants, 1st & Indiana Ave.

LAST WEEK

of the

25%

Discount On Children's, Women's and Misses' Spring Heel SHOES.

THE discount of 25 per cent on Dugan & Hudson's famous line of "Ironclad" Spring Heel Shoes, including children's, women's and misses, ends Saturday night. Your last opportunity to buy the finest shoes yet made at one-fourth their regular price, making them the greatest values ever offered. The sizes are somewhat broken, but an early response may secure yours.

\$1.50 Shoes now \$1.13. (Shoes 6 to 8.)

\$2.00 Shoes now \$1.50. (Shoes 9 to 10½.)

\$2.50 Shoes now \$1.87. (Shoes 11 to 12.)

\$3.00 Shoes now \$2.25. (Misses', 11 to 12—Women's, 2½ to 4.)

CROCKER'S, 939 Pa. Ave. Shoes Shined Free.

C-U-R-E-S

—headache, nervousness and indigestion quickly and permanently—

Wier's LEMON-SELTZER.